Position Paper Overview

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is what its name suggests: a paper in which a Member State or Observer sets out its position on a set of topics. For National Model United Nations (NMUN), delegates are asked to submit a position paper on the topics that are outlined in their Committee Background Guide. Although position papers are short – only two pages – they are a critical part of preparing for a NMUN conference.

As opposed to a working paper or a resolution, which are written during the conference and reflect the work and thoughts of several Member States and Observers working together, a position paper is written prior to a conference and reflects the position and actions of a single Member State or Observer. For each topic, the position paper should provide a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned Member State or Observer. You should establish what the key issues are for each topic and identify and address international and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and other precedents that are relevant to the topic, as well as what your Member State or Observer has done to address the topic thus far. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee in addressing the topic moving forward.

Your position paper must be comprised of entirely original writing. MUN will not tolerate plagiarism, which includes copying directly from the Committee Background Guides provided to delegates. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from the conference. In addition, although documentation issued by the United Nations is considered within the public domain, NMUN does not allow the verbatim reproduction of these documents.